

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a network of stations interconnected by a transmission medium, a method of operating [a] at least first and second stations according to a media access control protocol comprises:

transmitting on the transmission medium at the first station a first frame transmission having a destination address corresponding to the second station;

receiving on the transmission medium at the station a first frame transmission having a destination address corresponding to the first transmission at the second station; [and]

transmitting on the transmission medium at the second station a second frame transmission including information from the first frame transmission other than the destination address, the information from the first frame transmission occupying fewer bits than the destination address but being sufficiently unique to the first frame transmission as to convey that the second frame transmission is a response to the first frame transmission; and

receiving the second frame transmission at the first station and determining that the second frame transmission is a response to the first frame transmission and indicative of receipt of the first frame transmission by the second station.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first frame transmission includes a frame check sequence and the information in the second frame transmission includes a received frame check sequence field for specifying at least a portion of the frame check sequence in the first frame transmission and is to be used to determine that the second frame transmission is a response to the first frame transmission.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first frame transmission includes an indication that a response is expected.

4. (Currently Amended) In a network of stations interconnected by a transmission medium, a media access control unit in [a] at least first and second stations comprising:

a first transmit handler at the first station to transmit a first frame transmission having a destination address corresponding to the second station;

a receive handler at the second station to receive on the transmission medium a first frame transmission having a destination address corresponding to the second station; [and]

a transmit handler at the second station to transmit on the transmission medium a second frame transmission including information from the first frame transmission other than the destination address, the information from the first frame transmission occupying fewer bits than the destination address but being sufficiently unique to the first frame transmission as to convey that the second frame transmission is a response to the first frame transmission;

a receive handler and processor at the first station to receive the second frame transmission at the first station and to determine that the second frame transmission is a response to the first frame transmission and indicative of receipt of the first frame transmission by the second station.

5. (Previously Presented) The media access control unit of claim 4, wherein the first frame transmission includes a frame check sequence and the information in the second frame transmission includes a received frame check sequence field for specifying at least a portion of the frame check sequence in the first frame transmission and is to be used to determine that the second frame transmission is a response to the first frame transmission.

6. (Previously Presented) The media access control unit of claim 5, wherein the first frame transmission includes an indication that a response is expected.